

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are subject to an election requirement under 35 USC § 121.

Specifically, the claims were restricted to the following Specie sets:

Specie (A): Species of systemic autoimmune diseases (SADs) recited in claims 2, 3, and 19; and

Specie (B): Species of antigens recited in claims 4, 5, 20 and 21.

Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement. The claimed invention is directed to a computer system and computer implemented method for identifying whether a patient test sample is associated with SAD(s) based on antibody levels present in the test sample. It is believed that there would be no additional burden for searching one or more SADs and/or antigens in the context of the computer system and computer-implemented method as claimed. Also, there should not be any additional classification for the species.

Nonetheless, Applicants hereby elect SLE as the SAD from Specie set (A), and Scl-70as the antigen from Specie set (B) for prosecution on the merits should no generic claim be held to be allowable. Claims 2, 3 and 19 read on SLE, with all remaining claims being generic thereto. Claims 4, 5, 20 and 21 read on Scl-70, with all remaining claims being generic thereto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/828,846

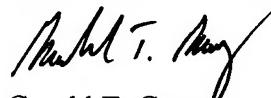
PATENT

Amdt. dated January 3, 2006

Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2005

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald T. Gray
Reg. No. 41,797

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 925-472-5000

Fax: 415-576-0300

Attachments

GTG:sea

60670600 v1